

ENGLISH - COURSE 'A'
(SAMPLE PAPER-1)
CLASS VIII - 2025-26

Time Allowed : 3 Hours

Maximum Marks : 80

General Instructions :

1. This paper consists of three sections: A, B, and C.
2. Attempt all the questions.
3. Do not write anything on the question paper except your name, class/section, and roll number.
4. All the answers must be correctly numbered as in the question paper and written in the answer sheet provided to you.
5. Ensure that questions of each section are answered together.
6. Read each question carefully and follow the instructions.
7. Strictly adhere to the word limit given in the paper.
8. Do the paper neatly and in a presentable manner. All the Best!

Section - A (Reading)

(20 Marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow : (1 x 8)

The Secret Behind an Ant's Gravity Defines Grip!

1. A biologist studying ants for three decades tells us how ants can move on different surfaces easily!
2. Ants have 6 feet, and each foot has five jointed segments. Each of these segments has spines and hair, which provide the ants traction on rough surfaces. The last segment also has a pair of claws that help with a good grip on irregular surfaces. Together, both spines and claws act like our shoes - protect ants from hot and sharp objects.
3. Located between each pair of their claws is an inflatable sticky pad called an arolium. Before gravity can pull an ant, its leg muscles pump fluid into the pads causing them to inflate. This sticky fluid called hemolymph circulates throughout their body. A little bit of hemolymph oozes out of the arolium when an ant places its legs on the surface, allowing it to stick to the surface. And when it removes its legs from the surface, the leg muscles

absorb the liquid back into the body.

4. Since ants are lightweight; these six pads are adequate enough to give them their gravity-defined grips on any surface. In their underground chambers, ants sleep on the ceiling using their sticky pads to avoid the rush hour traffic of other ants on the chamber floors.
5. When we walk, our left and right feet alternate. Ants do the same thing too - when they move, three of their legs are on the surface and three in the air at a time.

(1x6=6)

- i) Shoes are to humans, like _____ are to ants.
 - a) spines and claws
 - b) arolium/sticky pads
 - c) leg muscles
 - d) legs
- ii) On which type of surfaces does Arolium allow ants to walk?
 - a) spongy surfaces
 - b) sticky surfaces
 - c) irregular surfaces
 - d) clean and regular surfaces
- iii) Why do ants sleep on the ceiling of their chambers?
 - a) because they have sticky pads to climb
 - b) to improve their surface climbing ability
 - c) because they prefer to sleep in groups
 - d) to allow other ants to enter without any hindrance
- iv) What is the similarity between the way ants and humans walk?
 - a) Both alternate left and right feet.
 - b) They can walk on all kinds of surfaces.

- c) Have an even number of feet.
- d) Both put their left foot out first when walking.
- v) How are the leg muscles useful for the ants?
 - a) They are light-weight and flexible.
 - b) They are strong enough to take all the weight.
 - c) They are inflatable and provide traction.
 - d) They thrust the sticky fluid towards the arolium.
- vi) Ants prefer to live in _____.
- vii) Ants' claws give them their gravity-defined grips. (True/False)
- viii) Find the opposite of the word "slipperiness" in the above passage.

2. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

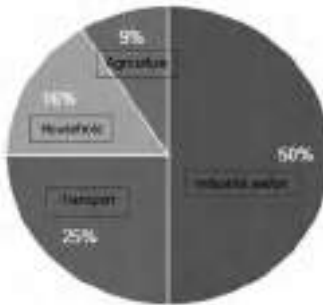
(1x12)

1. In terms of the total energy consumed by different sectors, the largest consumer is understandably the industrial sector, which accounts for nearly half of the total energy used in the country today. This is followed by the transport sector which consumes about 25%, the household sector about 16%, and the agricultural sector about 9%. This last sector has had a considerable increase in energy use over the last four decades. Among the primary fuels, the relative proportion of coal has dropped from nearly 80% to 40% and that of oil has gone up from 17% to 44% over the same period.
2. Total energy consumption in India today is equivalent to 291 million tons of oil of which 26% comes from wood. On a per capita basis it works out to about 1 litre of oil per day, which is extremely low by international standards. The future energy demand depends upon the level of development envisaged and also on the sections of people to be affected by it.
3. The energy disparity between the urban and the rural population at present is as wide as between nations on a worldwide scale. There is apparently a greater need to provide energy in the rural

areas and to improve the efficiency of energy use than merely to increase the national figures for energy consumption, limiting its use to those who are getting the bulk share already.

4. With the projected rate of population growth, improving upon the per capita energy consumption is a herculean task as our coal reserves and the capacity to import oil cannot be increased beyond a point. There is clearly no escape from the utilisation of renewable energy sources in a big way if the gap between the desired level of energy supply and available resources has to be kept at a minimum.

Data on Consumption of Energy



- i) In the passage, the author is laying greater emphasis on
- efficient use of energy
 - increasing energy consumption
 - controlling population growth
 - consumption of coal in India
- ii) Arrange the following in ascending order of their consumption of energy.
- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1) irrigation of fields | 2) domestic electricity use |
| 3) industrial electricity use | 4) transport |

2x4=8

Choose the correct option from below:

- a) 1, 2, 3, 4, b) 3, 4, 2, 1, c) 1, 2, 4, 3, d) 3, 2, 1, 4
- iii) Increasing per capita use of energy is _____.

- a) not desirable at all
 - b) a matter of great concern
 - c) a routine matter
 - d) rather difficult, but not impossible
- iv) The following options are marked Assertion(A) and Reason (R).
Read the statements and choose the correct option:

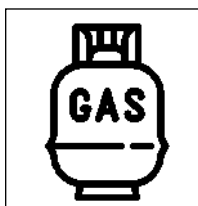
1x4=4

(A) The best possible solution to overcome the energy crisis is maximising renewable sources.

(R) It will reduce bulk users

- a) Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
 - b) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
 - c) Both (A) and (R) are true.
 - d) Both (A) and (R) are false.
- v) Identify the picture of renewable source of energy from the ones given below:

(a)



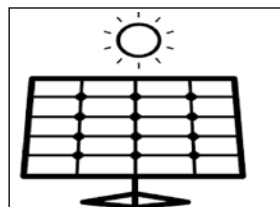
(b)



(c)



(d)



- vi) The writer has used a term "herculean task" in the passage. Identify the picture which makes the meaning of the term clear.

(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)



4

vii) 'There is clearly no escape' means _____.

viii) Pick out the synonym of 'imbalance' from paragraph 3.

8

ix) The use of which primary fuel has dropped to almost half?

x) Find the antonym of 'insignificant' from paragraph 1.

xi) According to the writer, the biggest reason for increased demand of energy in future will be _____

xii) Mention whether the following sentence is True or False.
There is no need to provide energy to rural areas.

Section B (Writing and Grammar)

(30 Marks)

3. 'It is important to get back to nature to de-stress ourselves and to experience pure joy!' Bearing the same thought in mind, your school has decided to add to the city's green cover and organise a tree plantation drive in the school's neighboring areas. Draft a Notice for the school notice board giving all necessary details. You are the Head Boy/Head girl of Himalaya Public School, Kota. (Word Limit: 50) (4 Marks)

OR

Complete the dialogues given below:

Coach: Karan, good news for you!

Karan: a) _____?

Coach: A chess competition is going to be held next week.

Karan: That's great, sir. b) _____?

Coach: At National Stadium, New Delhi. You have to start practising from today itself.

Karan: Sure, sir. c) _____. At the same time, I am also a little nervous.

Coach: Don't worry. (d) _____

4. The twenty-first century we live in is marked by growing intolerance. People of different castes and creeds cannot even stand one another, let alone co-existing in harmony. Virtues like sensitivity, mercy and patience have been replaced by arrogance and rash behaviour. Tolerance is the only hope. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily expressing your concern about the deteriorating social values. You can take ideas from the Unit 'Tolerance' of 'My English Reader'. (Word Limit: 100-120) (8 marks)

OR

'Self-confidence, enterprise and a personality shaped by good deeds and value system spell victory.' Write an article on the topic 'Fortune favours the Bold', reflecting on the lives of your role models, who have earned success through sheer determination. Take ideas from the Unit 'Enterprise' of 'My English Reader'. (Word Limit: 100-120)

5. In the paragraph given below, one word has been omitted in each line. Write the missing word along with the word that comes before and after it in your answer sheet against the correct blank number.

	Before	Missing	After	
Antibody is a type protein	type	of	protein	(1x4=4)
used the immune system	(a)	
of our body identify and	(b)	
neutralise foreign objects as	(c)	
pathogenic bacteria viruses.	(d)	

6. Rearrange the following words/phrases into meaningful sentences. (1x4=4)
- a) of/celebrated/poets/India/the/is/Rabindra Nath Tagore/one/most/of
- b) the/he/Prize/receive/became/Indian/to/the/Nobel/first/

prestigious

- c) vault/of/safety/awards/stolen/few/from/a/his/were/the
- d) locate/there/medallion/demands/a/are/the/probe/to/start/to/fresh.

7. Read the conversation among the family members at dinner. Then report it by completing the sentences that follow using appropriate expressions.

Granny : Pass me some salt, dear.

Child : Here it is, grandma! The pasta is really yummy, Mom!

Mother : Thanks dear, but don't skip your juice for it. You need to take a proper diet.

Granny : Always listen to your mother. Moms are always right!

(1x4=4)

Speaking to the granddaughter affectionately, Granny asked her to (a) _____. The granddaughter quickly passed the salt to her and complimented her mother (b) _____. The mother thanked her and advised (c) _____ as (d) _____ a proper diet. Granny suggested her granddaughter to always listen to her mother as moms are always right.

8. Choose the correct word from the options given below to complete the following passage.

One of the most important political figures of the United States(a) _____ (were, was, being, are) Benjamin Franklin. He (b) _____ (shapes, shaped, will shape, is shaping) the American Revolution. His success in c) _____ (securing, secured, secure, is securing) the French Military financial aid was decisive for American victory over Britain.

(1x3=3)

9. Do as directed.

a) Walk fast lest you _____ miss the school bus. (Fill in the blank with a suitable modal)

b) Neither of the two candidates _____ selected for the competition. (Provide a suitable helping verb according to the subject)

(1x3=3)

c) Baking is my favourite pastime.

(Identify whether the underlined word is a Gerund/Participle/Infinitive).

Section - C (Literature)

(30 marks)

10. Attempt any one extract out of the two given below.

I strongly recommend a quiet week in bed.

We sighed with relief and tucked her up well.

Poor Granny! For her, it was like a brief season in hell,

Confined to her bedroom, while every breeze

Whispered of summer and dancing leaves.

(1x4=4)

- a) Identify the speaker in the first line.
- b) Pick a pair of rhyming words in the above lines.
- c) The poetic device used in the last line is.....
- d) Write the synonym of the word 'suggest' from the stanza.

OR

Bangle sellers are we who bear

Our shining loads to the temple fair.

Who will buy these delicate, bright

Rainbow-tinted circles of light?

Lustrous tokens of radiant lives,

For happy daughters and happy wives.

- a) State the reason for the bangle sellers' visit to the temple fair.
- b) Write the rhyme scheme of the given stanza.
- c) Who will buy these shining loads?
- d) The 'shining loads' refers to _____

11. Attempt any one extract out of the two given below.

"On a number of occasions, he quarrelled with the police and they have always been on the lookout for an opportunity to implicate him. Recently when a dacoity took place in the village, they got their chance and during the investigation roped him in. He is under arrest and has been in jail for the last week. The case is filed in the court of Deputy Collector, Mr. Mohammad Khalil. Daroga Sahib and he are great friends and I am sure that my son will be sentenced. No one, only you, can save him."

(1×4=4)

- a) Identify the speaker and the listener of the above lines.
- b) 'He' refers to _____.
- c) Write the reason for his implication by the police.
- d) Find the synonym for the word 'incriminate.'

OR

Speaker 1: I won't have much money. Perhaps I won't be able to pay you.

Speaker 2: It doesn't matter sir. I've saved some money, so I don't need any now. But I want to stay here. It's my home.

- a) Identify speaker 1 and speaker 2.
- b) Speaker 1 would not be able to pay speaker 2 because _____.
- c) Speaker 2 works as a _____.
- d) Why does speaker 2 want to stay there without a salary?

12. Attempt ANY SIX short answer type questions out of the seven given below. [Word Limit: 30-40].

(2×6=12)

- a) What does Alexander Pope declare about judgments and watches through his couplet? (Couplets)
- b) Initially, the bearded man wanted to kill the king, but later he asked for forgiveness. Explain the reason behind this transformation. (Three Questions)
- c) Elucidate the poet's toil and challenges as a child. (My Mother)
- d) Children want to lessen man's distress, when they grow up. How will they be able to do so? (The Children's Song)

- e) The disconnect between Margie and her mechanical teacher was the primary reason for her disinterest in her school. Do you agree? Support your answer with evidence from the story. (The Fun They Had)
 - f) Although the young woman was right-handed, she was posing herself to be left-handed. What was her purpose behind it? (The Case of the Sharp-Eyed Jeweller)
 - g) 'Swami went to his seat with a bleeding heart'. Why was he so upset? What was tormenting him? (Father's Help).
13. The narrator was flattered and was too young to have learned to say NO to a woman. The narrator had to spend his entire month's budget to host a luncheon for the lady at Foyot's. Despite being frustrated, he remained cordial and friendly towards her. Keeping this instance in focus, throw light on the character of the narrator in the story 'The Luncheon'. (Word Limit: 70-80) 4 marks

OR

- Swami gave a lurid account of Samuel's violence to his father. His father became excited and wrote a complaint letter without verifying the facts, leading to a spiral of negative events that ensued from one to another. Elaborate the theme of the story "Father's Help" in the light of the above statement. (Word Limit: 70-80)
14. Imagine yourself as Margie. After knowing about old-time schools and the fun children had there, you feel inclined to join such a school as you are fed up of your technologically-advanced school. Write a diary entry mentioning all the aspects of old-time schools that excite your interest, and give an account of the disadvantages of your mechanical classroom. (Word Limit: 100) 6 marks

OR

Mrs. Hill is guilt-stricken for having left her husband when he needed her the most. On behalf of Mrs. Hill, write a letter to her friend expressing her feelings regarding the same. (Word Limit: 100)

ENGLISH - COURSE 'A'

(CLASS VIII (2025-26))

SAMPLE PAPER - 1

Maximum Marks : 80

MARKING SCHEME / HINTS TO SOLUTIONS

(Note : Any other relevant answer, not given herein but given by the candidates, be suitably awarded.)

Q. No.	VALUE POINTS / KEY POINTS	Marks allotted to each key point/value point	Total Marks
1.	Section : A (Reading) Reading Comprehension Passage 1 i) a) spine and claws ii) c) irregular surfaces iii) d) to allow other ants to enter without any hindrance iv) a) Both alternate left and right feet. v) d) They thrust the sticky fluid towards the arolium. vi) underground chambers vii) False viii) traction	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	8
2.	Reading Comprehension Passage 2 i. a) efficient use of energy ii. b) 3,4,2,1 iii. b) a matter of great concern iv. a) Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A). v. d) option D vi) d) option D vii) there is hardly any alternative/no choice/any other relevant answer	1 1 1 1 1 1 1	12

Q.No.	VALUE POINTS / KEY POINTS	Marks allotted to each key point/value point	Total Marks
3.	viii) disparity	1	
	ix) coal	1	
	x) considerable	1	
	xi) population growth	1	
	xii) False	1	
	<u>Notice</u>		4
	▪ Name of school/organisation	Format 1	
	▪ The word 'NOTICE'	Content 3	
	▪ Date		
	▪ Heading/Topic/Title		
	▪ Body/Content (what, when, where, who etc.)		
	▪ Name		
	▪ Designation (Put in a box.)		
4.	<u>OR</u>		4
	<u>Dialogue Completion</u>		
	a) What is it, sir? / What's that sir?	1	
	b) Where will it be held? / What's the venue?	1	
	c) I am very excited! / thrilled / The news has animated / charged me!	1	
	d) I know you can do it. / You will be able to make it.(any other relevant answer)	1	
	<u>Formal Letter</u>		
	Format:		
	• Sender's Address		
	• Date		
	• Receiver's Designation		

Q. No.	VALUE POINTS / KEY POINTS	Marks Allotted to each value Point/Key Point	Total Marks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receiver's Address (Name of the national daily and address) Subject Salutation Content / body → 3 paras Subscription <p>Value points:</p> <p><u>PROBLEM :</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is disheartening to see that the younger generation is becoming increasingly intolerant towards people. This trend can be observed in school and colleges also. It is not uncommon to hear the stories of bullying, harassment and hate speech which can have a lasting impact on the victims. <p><u>CAUSES :</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orthodox mindset. Sense of superiority. Effect of social media trends. <p><u>SOLUTIONS :</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a society we must take responsibility of addressing this issue We must create a safe space where everyone feels valued. Social media platforms to be mindful of the content and the messages they convey. By fostering a culture of tolerance and acceptance, 	<p>Content 3</p> <p>Fluency 2</p> <p>Accuracy 2</p> <p>Format 1</p>	8

Q. No.	VALUE POINTS / KEY POINTS	Marks Allotted to each value Point/Key Point	Total Marks
	<p>we can create a brighter future for our youth and society as a whole.</p> <p>(accept any other relevant idea or point.</p> <p>Content should be divided in three paragraphs- introduction, development of idea with examples and conclusion)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>OR</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Article</u></p> <p><u>Format:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heading • By line / writer's name • Content (to be divided into three four paragraphs) <p><u>Value points:</u> (any other relevant points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action is the key to all success. • Despite obstacles one should not be hopeless. • Success is something that everyone desires . • It requires hard work, determination and belief. • Will power is the ability to control one's thoughts, emotions and behaviour. • One should always be ready to take the challenges head on and not be afraid of failure. • Physical strength, talent, creativity and vibrant personality etc. are the other factors for success. • With hard work , dedication and perseverance success is within reach for anyone, who is willing to put in the effort 		

Q. No.	VALUE POINTS / KEY POINTS	Marks Allotted to each value Point/Key Point	Total Marks																				
5.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hardwork and will power overtake talent and destiny. <p>Editing (Omission)</p> <table> <tr> <td>Before</td><td>Missing</td><td>After</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>a) used</td><td>by</td><td>the</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr> <td>b) body</td><td>to</td><td>identify</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr> <td>c) objects</td><td>such</td><td>as</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr> <td>d) bacteria</td><td>and</td><td>viruses</td><td>1</td></tr> </table>	Before	Missing	After		a) used	by	the	1	b) body	to	identify	1	c) objects	such	as	1	d) bacteria	and	viruses	1		4
Before	Missing	After																					
a) used	by	the	1																				
b) body	to	identify	1																				
c) objects	such	as	1																				
d) bacteria	and	viruses	1																				
6.	<p>Rearranging words and phrases</p> <p>a) RabindraNath Tagore is one of the most celebrated poets of India.</p> <p>b) He became the first Indian to receive the prestigious Nobel Prize.</p> <p>c) A few of his awards were stolen from the safety vault.</p> <p>d) There are demands to start a fresh probe to locate the medallion.</p>	1 1 1 1	4																				
7.	<p>Reported Speech</p> <p>(a) pass her some salt.</p> <p>(b) that the pasta was really yummy.</p> <p>(c) not to skip her juice for it.</p> <p>(d) she needed to take</p>	1 1 1 1	4																				
8.	<p>Gap- Filling</p> <p>a) was</p> <p>b) shaped</p> <p>c) securing</p>	1 1 1	3																				
9.	Do as Directed																						

Q. No.	VALUE POINTS / KEY POINTS	Marks Allotted to each value Point/Key Point	Total Marks
	a) should b) was/has been c) Gerund.	1 1 1	3
	Section : C (Literature)		
10.	A) RTC (poem) a. The doctor b. Well-hell c. Personification d. recommend	1 1 1 1	4
	<u>OR</u>		
	B) a. To sell the bangles b. aabbcc c. happy daughters and happy wives d. shining bangles	1 1 1 1	4
11.	(A) RTC Prose/(play) a. Narrator and Baldev b. Baldev's elder son c. He had quarrelled with the police many times d. implicate	1 1 1 1	4
	<u>OR</u>		
	B) a. Mr. Hill and Annie b. he will have to resign from the bank / he has lost his job.	1 1	

Q. No.	VALUE POINTS / KEY POINTS	Marks Allotted to each value Point/Key Point	Total Marks
12.	c. cook	1	4
	d. she considered it as her home/devotedly working for twenty years	1	
	(Any Six)		
	a. Just as two watches do not show the same time, in the same way judgements of two people may be different.	2	12
	b. The king saved his life whereas he wanted to kill the King. The kindness, compassion and generosity of the king changed his heart.	2	
	c. Walking miles before sunrise / collecting and distributing newspaper / evening business (Any two)	2	
	d. God's blessings / by deed or thought/their own strength	2	
	e. The mechanical teacher did not express empathy/ Margie was discouraged by her failure to perform and the inability of the teacher to assist her/The mechanical teacher could not pacify or encourage or motivate Margie.	2	
	f. She knew that the American was left-handed / The flower ring was stuck on the left side of the counter.	2	
	g. He was feeling guilty. The teacher had been kind to him but his false allegations could lead to the ruin of the teacher's career.	2	
13.	- Struggling writer; lived in a tiny apartment; hard of money	4	4
	- Soft and humble, courteous and polite		
	- couldn't say NO to a woman's invitation for lunch; was easily sweet-talked into a forced meeting		

Q. No.	VALUE POINTS / KEY POINTS	Marks Allotted to each value Point/Key Point	Total Marks
14.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good listener, patient, compliant and adjusting - Good host - spent all his pocket money at Foyots - Frugal- didn't order expensive food for himself - Though frustrated of, did not misbehave <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One lie leads to another. A lie could cost you a lot of embarrassment and guilt. - One must think a hundred times before making an allegation. It doesn't only ruin another person's life or reputation but also your night's sleep and peace. - Swami made an excuse for not going to school on a Monday morning. - He tried to convince his father by lying about his teacher's strict behaviour. - One lie triggered a chain of events that led to Swami's father filing a formal complaint against his teacher. - Gave a lurid account of his violence that did not have any truth. - Though Swami felt guilty, he had to indulge in nuisance to prove his allegations right. - He couldn't deliver the letter due to the absence of the Headmaster, thus earning spite from both his father and teacher. 		
	<p>Format of Diary entry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Got to know about the old-time school from Tommy; Saw a real book so exciting! - It was fun to go to school in those days 	6	6

Q. No.	VALUE POINTS / KEY POINTS	Marks Allotted to each value Point/Key Point	Total Marks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A human teacher instead of a mechanical teacher – so understanding, forgiving and loving. - Going to school with other children -learning/ playing/eating together – social relationships - Special building called school – a chance to explore environment and human nature - No fun, no friendship in present school – mechanical robotic teacher – no empathy, compassion or motivation - lonely and secluded ; no one to share and care - Wish I could go to old time real schools - am fed up of this mechanical routine - Any other relevant points <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Hill / George lost his job - Indifferent towards Annie, bank employees - Forced to resign from the bank – bad patch in life; embarrassing and emotionally shattering - But, instead of standing beside him, I lost my temper, decided to leave him - Didn't even think about Annie - Feeling guilty for deserting him when he needed me the most. Could have counselled and supported him as a companion. - Annie's selfless behaviour opened my eyes. Feeling remorseful. Will make up for the mistake. 		